Agriculture and Rural Development direct to Panchayat Administration without the intervention of the State Government.

(b) In the meeting of 19th May, 1998 with the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister, West Bengal expressed the need for early implementation of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes pertaining to State subjects to the States with funds. The issue of direct transfer of funds to Panchayats was not raised.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Steps to restructure BIFR

*389. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken for restructuring of BIFR into fast track facilitator and for early detection of sickness in industries; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill, 1997 to replace the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16th May, 1997 lapsed on the dissolution of the 11th Lok Sabha in December, 1997. Action has been initiated to recast the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill, 1997.

Strategy against use of drugs

*390. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the global strategy to fight against drugs adopted in UN meet held in June, 1998;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to fight the menace in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) The United Nations General Assembly adopted unanimously a global strategy setting a ten year target to eradicate demand and supply of illicit narcotic drugs. The main document of the Summit called for a significant reduction in the area of demand for illicit drugs and elimination of illicit drug crops with provision for alternative development. The Resolutions adopted also provide for strong counter-measures to eliminate money laundering, production and abuse of Amphatemines, as well as for enhanced judicial cooperation between Member Nations.

(b) The Government of India welcomes the adoption of global strategy and fully supports it.

(c) All Enforcement agencies are being strengthened. A strict vigil will be maintained by the Government to keep a track on the activities of the drug smugglers, specially in the North Eastern and North West border areas. The Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 is being amended, with the aim of making it more effective.

Problem of black money in the country

*391. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of black money in the country as on 31st March, 1998;

(b) what has been the response of the VDIS;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce similar schemes to unearth black money;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) how Government propose to tackle the problem of black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) No estimate is available of the amount of Black Money in the country as on 31.3.98. There was a

study made by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in 1983-84 which estimated undisclosed money between Rs. 31584 crore to Rs. 36786 crore.

(b) The Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997 came into force on 1.7.1997 and lasted till 31.12.1997.

The total number of declarants who availed of the benefits of the scheme is 4,75,798. The total amount of taxes collected including interest is Rs. 9583.83 crore. The total amount of undisclosed income declared under the scheme is Rs. 33,339.03 crore.

(c) & (d) As of now, no other scheme for disclosing black money is under consideration of the Government.

(e) The Government have been taking necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures, from time to time to unearth the undisclosed money. Rates of taxation have been progressively rationalised. Besides, the Income Tax Act, 1961 contains a number of provisions aimed at unearthing the undisclosed money. These include, inter-alia, provision regarding compulsory maintenance and audit of accounts in appropriate cases under sections 44AA and 44AB, restrictions on cash transactions under sections 40A(3), 269SS and 269T, preemptive purchase of properties under Chapter XXC and provisions regarding penalities and prosecutions for punishing tax defaulters. The Act also contains provisions regarding summons, surveys and searches etc. to detect tax evasion. A new procedure for making assessments in cases of search has been introduced with the levy of tax on undisclosed income at 60%. These provisions are resorted to in appropriate cases.

बकायाशोध्य कर

*392. प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) आयकर और नियमित कर की कितनी राशि बकाया है;

(ख) एक करोड़ रुपये से अधिक राशि कितने व्यक्तियों पर बकाया है;

(ग) ऐसे व्यक्तियों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं; और

(घ) इस राशि को वसूल करने हेतु सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर॰ जनार्दनन): (क) 31-3-1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार, आयकर और निगम कर की बकाया धनराशि 42,947 करोड़ रु॰ (अनंतिम) है।

(ख) 31-3-1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार 2515 मामले ऐसे हैं, जहां 1 करोड़ रु॰ और उससे अधिक बकाया मांग है।

(ग) ऐसे व्यक्तियों के नामों की सूची काफी विस्तृत होगी। अतः इसे तैयार करने में लगने वाला समय और प्रयास प्राप्त किए जाने वाले उद्देश्यों के अनुरुप नहीं हो सकते।

(घ) कर की वसूली एक निरन्तर चलने वाली प्रक्रिया है जिसमें विस्तृत सांविधिक प्रक्रियाएं अन्तर्ग्रस्त हैं। उनमें ब्याज की वसूली करना, अर्थ दंड लगाना, बैंक खाते की कुर्की, चल और अचल सम्पत्तियों आदि की कुर्की और बिक्री करना शामिल है। उच्च मांग वाले मामलों की आवधिक पुनरीक्षा और निगरानी सतत आधार पर उच्च प्राधिकारियों द्वारा की जाती है और करों की वसूली करने के लिए समय-समय पर आवश्यक अनुदेश जारी किए जाते हैं।

Calcutta as A-1 City

*393. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Calcutta High Court's Order asking Central Government to declare Calcutta as A-1 city; and

(b) if so, by when Government is going to honour the Hon'ble High Court's order?